



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/035,791 | 10/18/2001 | Philip D. Cole | 010327-003300US | 3939 |
| 20350 | 7590 | 09/02/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP | | | MEHRA, INDER P | |
| TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER | | | ART UNIT | |
| EIGHTH FLOOR | | | PAPER NUMBER | |
| SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834 | | | 2666 | |

DATE MAILED: 09/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/035,791

Applicant(s)

COLE ET AL.

Examiner

Inder P. Mehra

Art Unit

2666

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 35 and 36 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 10/18/2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to application dated: 10/18/2001.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Refer to pages 1-2, lines 22-32 at page 1 and 2-4 at page 2. Provide Application Serial nos., in place of Docket nos., and their statuses as to whether these are patented or not, if yes, their dates be provided.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 2-5 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 2 recites “fixed buffer allocation space” in line 2. It should be “the fixed buffer allocation space”, because it is preceded by the same limitation in claim 1 line 3.

Claim 3 recites “network connection” in line 4. It should be “the network connection”, because it is preceded by the same limitation in claim 1 line 2.

Claim 3 recites “prioritized fair share buffer space” in line 6. It should be “the prioritized fair share buffer space”, because it is preceded by the same limitation in claim 1 line 7.

Claims 3 and 34 are identical and depend from single claim 1.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Art Unit: 2666

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 11-14 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 11 recites the limitation "the shared buffer space" in line 1. There is no antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Lebizay et al** (US Patent No. 5,602,841), hereinafter Lebizay in view of **Lo et al** (US Patent No. 6,785,236), hereinafter, Lo.

For claims 1-2, Lebizay discloses "A method of allocating memory buffer space for traffic of network connections, (refer to col. 11 lines 20-26), the method comprising:

- designating fixed buffer allocation space, wherein buffers the fixed buffer allocation space are associated fixed buffer allocation queue identifications (refer to col. 14 lines 25-40 and col. 24 lines 23-25; and

Art Unit: 2666

Lebizay does not disclose expressly the following limitations, which are disclosed by Lo, as follows:

- designating prioritized fair share buffer space, wherein buffers in the prioritized fair share buffer space are associated with prioritized fair share queue identifications, refer to col. 5 lines 5-15..

It would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to use the capability of “designating prioritized fair share buffer space, wherein buffers in the prioritized fair share buffer space are associated with prioritized fair share queue identifications” as taught by Lo. The capability can be implemented in buffer and que structure. The motivation for using buffers and queue structure, as taught by Labizay, in the communications network for processing , optimizing the queuing and de-queuing operations and manipulate the packets.

For claim 2, Lebizay discloses “wherein the step of designating fixed buffer allocation space includes reserving a semi-permanent portion of the fixed buffer allocation space for the network connections, (refer to col. 12 lines 10-12.

8. Claims 3-5 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lebizay in view of Lo, further, in view of **Patrick** (US Patent Application No. 2005/0175014).

For claims 3 and 34, Lebizay in view of Lo discloses all the limitations of subject matter, with the exception of the following limitations which are disclosed by Patrick, as follows:

Art Unit: 2666

- “wherein the step of designating prioritized fair share buffer space further comprises determining a weighting value for each network connection, and wherein network connection having a higher weighting value is proportionately allocated a greater amount of prioritized fair share buffer space”, (refer to paragraph 0006 and 0030).

It would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to use the capability of “wherein the step of designating prioritized fair share buffer space further comprises determining a weighting ---a higher weighting value is proportionately allocated a greater amount of prioritized fair share buffer space” as taught by Patrick. The capability can be implemented in buffer and queue structure. The motivation for using buffers and queue structure, as taught by Patrick, in the communications network is for providing statistical assurance of bandwidth.

For claim 4, Lebizay in view of Lo and further in view of Patrick discloses all the limitations of subject matter, with the exception of the following limitations which are disclosed by Patrick, as follows:

- receiving traffic of a particular network connection, refer to col. 9 line 66 through col. 10 line 13;
- determining a particular buffer allocation for traffic of the particular network connection, refer to col. 10 lines 10-27 and col. 14 line 30 through col.15 line 15;
- allocating the traffic the particular network connection to the particular buffer allocation, refer to col. 10 lines 10-13 and col. 14 lines 48-55.

It would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

Art Unit: 2666

invention to use the capability of receiving traffic of a particular network connection, determining a particular buffer allocation for traffic of the particular network connection, allocating the traffic the particular network connection to the particular buffer allocation as taught by Mahalingaiah. The capability can be implemented in buffer and queue structure. The motivation for using buffers and queue structure, as taught by Mahalingaiah, in the communications network is for enabling routing mechanism to rout packets according to optimum path.

For claim 5, Lebizay discloses wherein the particular buffer allocation includes at least a portion of the fixed buffer allocation space; and a portion of the prioritized fair share buffer space, refer to col. 14 lines 25-40.

9. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lebizay in view of Lo, further, in view of **Fishman et al** (US Patent No.6,084,869), hereinafter, Fishman.

For claim 6, Lebizay in view of Lo discloses all the limitations of subject matter, with the exception of the following limitations which are disclosed by Fishman, as follows:

- “prioritizing the prioritized fair share queue identifications to have relative rankings amongst the prioritized fair share queue identifications”, refer to col. 3 line 67 through col. 4 line 5.

It would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to use the capability of “prioritizing the prioritized fair share queue identifications to have relative rankings amongst the prioritized fair share queue identifications”, as taught by

Art Unit: 2666

Fishman. The capability can be implemented in buffer and queue structure. The motivation for using buffers and queue structure, as taught by Fishman , in the communications network is for reserving channel resources.

10. Claims 8-9, 15, 18-19, 25, 28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Park** (US Patent No. 6,430,187), hereinafter **Park** in view of **Lo et al** (US Patent No. 6,785,236), hereinafter, **Lo**.

For claims 8-9, 15, 18-19, 25, 28 and 30, Park discloses "A method discarding a prioritized fair share traffic of network connections, refer to col. 1 lines 15-18, and col. lines 55-65, the method comprising:

- receiving traffic of at least particular network connection, refer to col. 1 lines 40-45;
- filling a portion of a fixed buffer allocation space with traffic of the particular network connection, refer to col. 1 lines 40-45, wherein a buffer the fixed buffer allocation space is associated with a fixed buffer allocation queue identification, refer to col. 4 lines 25-35;
- filling a portion of a prioritized fair share buffer space with traffic of the particular network connection, refer to col. 1 lines 40-45, wherein a buffer in the prioritized fair share buffer space is associated with a prioritized fair share queue identification, (refer to "The DMA logic 34 manipulates **frame pointers (identification)** on queues in order to "move" the frames from one component to another, .col. 4 lines 25-35);
and

Art Unit: 2666

- discarding portion of lowest priority traffic network connections, (the buffers may become full, resulting in the undesirable discarding of low priority frames, refer to col. 1 lines 55-60).

Park does not disclose expressly the following limitations, which are disclosed by Lo, as follows:

- ‘wherein a buffer in the prioritized fair share buffer space is associated with a prioritized fair share queue identification’, refer to col. 5 lines 5-15,

It would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to use the capability of “wherein a buffer in the prioritized fair share buffer space is associated with a prioritized fair share queue identification”, as taught by Lo. The capability can be implemented in buffer and que structure. The motivation for using buffers and queue structure, as taught by Labizay, in the communications network for processing , optimizing the queuing and de-queuing operations and manipulate the packets.

For claims 9 and 19, Park discloses “wherein the fixed buffer allocation space is configured to provide semi-permanent minimum buffer space each network connection”, refer to col. 1 lines 42-50.

11. Claims 10-11 and 20-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Park** in view of **Lo**, as above, further, in view of **Yoshikawa et al** (US Patent No. 6,532,234), hereinafter, ‘234.

For claims 10-11 and 20-21, Park in view of Lo discloses all the limitations of

Art Unit: 2666

subject matter of the claim, with the exception of the following limitation, which is disclosed by '234, as follows:

- wherein the fixed buffer space is configured to provide a guaranteed minimum buffer space to each network connection, **as recited by claims 10 and 20**, refer to col. 3 lines 3-5.
- wherein the shared buffer space is configured to provide a non-guaranteed buffer space to each network connection, and is configured to be shared amongst network connections, refer to col. 3 lines 5-10.

It would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to use the capability of “wherein the fixed buffer space is configured to provide a guaranteed minimum buffer space to each network connection”, as taught by '234. The capability can be implemented in buffer and queue structure. The motivation for using buffers and queue structure, as taught by '234, in the communications network for processing , optimizing the queuing and de-queuing operations and manipulate the packets.

12. Claims 12 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park in view of Lo and '234, as above, further, in view of **Fishman et al** (US Patent No.6,084,869), hereinafter, Fishman.

For claims 12 and 22, Park in view of Lo and '234 discloses all the limitations of subject matter, with the exception of the following limitations which are disclosed by Fishman, as follows:

Art Unit: 2666

- “prioritizing the prioritized fair share queue identifications to have relative rankings amongst the prioritized fair share queue identifications”, refer to col. 3 line 67 through col. 4 line 5.

It would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to use the capability of “prioritizing the prioritized fair share queue identifications to have relative rankings amongst the prioritized fair share queue identifications”, as taught by Fishman. The capability can be implemented in buffer and queue structure. The motivation for using buffers and queue structure, as taught by Fishman , in the communications network is for reserving channel resources.

13. Claims 13-14, 16-17, 23-24, 26-27, 29 and 31-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Park in view of Lo, further, in view of **Patrick** (US Patent Application No. 2005/0175014).

For claims 13-14, 23-24 and 29, Lebizay in view of Lo discloses all the limitations of subject matter, with the exception of the following limitations which are disclosed by Patrick, as follows:

- wherein a portion size for each network connection is based upon a weighting value assigned to each network connection., (refer to paragraph 0006 and 0030).
- “wherein the step of designating prioritized fair share buffer space further comprises determining a weighting value for each network connection, and wherein network connection having a higher weighting value is proportionately allocated a greater amount of prioritized fair share buffer space”, (refer to paragraph 0006 and 0030).

It would have been obvious to the person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention to use the capability of “wherein the step of designating prioritized fair share buffer space further comprises determining a weighting ---a higher weighting value is proportionately allocated a greater amount of prioritized fair share buffer space” as taught by Patrick. The capability can be implemented in buffer and queue structure. The motivation for using buffers and queue structure, as taught by Patrick, in the communications network is for providing statistical assurance of bandwidth.

For claims 16-17, 26-27 and 31-33, Park discloses the following limitations:

- wherein the traffic of the particular network connection has a lower quality of service value than that of traffic of the least one other network connection, and wherein the discarding step comprises discarding traffic the particular network connection, refer to col. 1 lines 42-64.
- wherein the step of filling the portion of the prioritized fair share buffer space comprises filling substantially all of the prioritized fair share buffer space, and wherein the discarding step is triggered by the step of filling substantially all of the prioritized fair share buffer space, refer to col. 1 lines 42-64.

Allowable Subject Matter

Art Unit: 2666

14. Claims 7, 35-36 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Prior Art of Record

15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
- Sangha et al (US Patent Application No. 2002/0176430) discloses methods and systems for managing data packets in various communication networks.
 - Knight et al (US Patent Application No. 2002/0176424) discloses one embodiment of a method for switching ATM cells using early packet discard and partial packet discard.

Conclusion

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Inder P. Mehra whose telephone number is 571-272-3170. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8AM to 5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on 571-272-3174. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2666

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Inder Pal Mehra

Inder P Mehra

Examiner

Art Unit 2666

8/30/05



DANG TON
PRIMARY EXAMINER